

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Digital Repository

Integrated Crop Management News

Agriculture and Natural Resources


8-4-2009

Degree Days - We Don't Need Stress!

Richard O. Pope

Iowa State University, ropope@iastate.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cropnews>

 Part of the [Agricultural Science Commons](#), [Agriculture Commons](#), [Agronomy and Crop Sciences Commons](#), [Climate Commons](#), and the [Plant Pathology Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Pope, Richard O., "Degree Days - We Don't Need Stress!" (2009). *Integrated Crop Management News*. 584.
<http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cropnews/584>

The Iowa State University Digital Repository provides access to Integrated Crop Management News for historical purposes only. Users are hereby notified that the content may be inaccurate, out of date, incomplete and/or may not meet the needs and requirements of the user. Users should make their own assessment of the information and whether it is suitable for their intended purpose. For current information on integrated crop management from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, please visit <http://crops.extension.iastate.edu/>.

Degree Days - We Don't Need Stress!

Abstract

It is beyond time to get hot summer weather started! Both corn and soybean are (finally) in reproductive stages, and parts of Iowa are over 200 degree days behind normal. But we don't want to make up that deficit with significantly above-normal temperatures, as high August temperatures mean stress that can cut yield potential dramatically. In 1992, we were nearly as far behind as now, and the cool August weather then produced an above-normal yielding crop, however the grain was wet and fall grain handling and dry down were significant issues.

Keywords

Plant Pathology

Disciplines

Agricultural Science | Agriculture | Agronomy and Crop Sciences | Climate | Plant Pathology

[Subscribe to Crop News](#)

Archives

[2015](#)[2014](#)[2013](#)[2012](#)[2011](#)[2010](#)[2009](#)[2008](#)[Previous Years](#)

ISU Crop Resources

[Extension Field Agronomists](#)[Crop & Soils Info](#)[Pesticide Applicator Training](#)[Agronomy Extension](#)[Entomology Extension](#)[Plant Pathology Extension](#)[Ag and Biosystems Engineering Extension](#)[Agribusiness Education Program](#)[Iowa Grain Quality Initiative](#)[College of Agriculture and Life Sciences](#)[ISU Extension](#)

Integrated Crop Management NEWS

[PRINT STORY](#)
[EMAIL STORY](#)
[ADD TO DELICIOUS](#)
[ATOM FEED](#)
[FOLLOW ON TWITTER](#)

Degree Days - We Don't Need Stress!

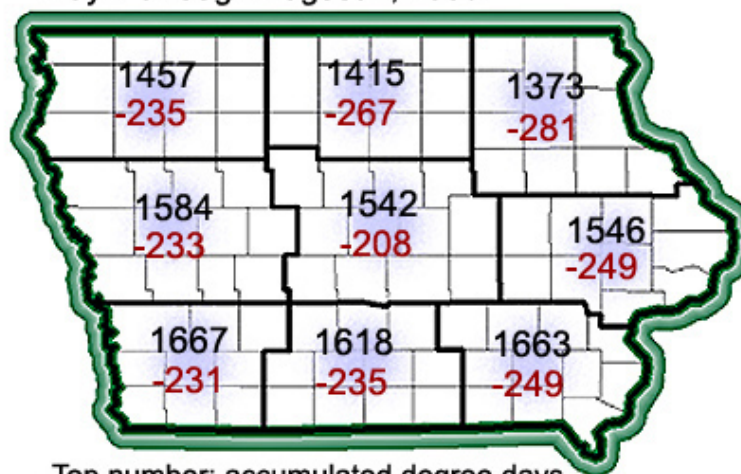
By Rich Pope, Department of Plant Pathology

It is beyond time to get hot summer weather started! Both corn and soybean are (finally) in reproductive stages, and parts of Iowa are over 200 degree days behind normal.

But we don't want to make up that deficit with significantly above-normal temperatures, as high August temperatures mean stress that can cut yield potential dramatically. In 1992, we were nearly as far behind as now, and the cool August weather then produced an above-normal yielding crop, however the grain was wet and fall grain handling and dry down were significant issues.

We cannot say yet if there will be a repeat of 1992. The ideal weather recipe now is not too cold and not too warm, with a little rain mixed in. Anything cooler and we delay maturation, anything warmer and we cut yields.

Base 50°F degree days
May 1 through August 2, 2009



Top number: accumulated degree days
Bottom number: departure from average

Observations indicate soybean aphid numbers are increasing, most notably in northern and central Iowa. Scouting fields is critically important. Foliar corn diseases also warrant monitoring - eyespot in northern parts of the state and gray leaf spot towards the south.

There is an [interesting graphic and story](#) of the July 24, 2009 hail storm that struck northeast Iowa on the Iowa Environmental Mesonet (IEM) website. The IEM contains a wealth of weather and climate related information for Iowans.

Rich Pope is a program specialist with responsibilities with Integrated Pest Management. Pope can be contacted by email at ropope@iastate.edu or by calling (515) 294-5899.

This article was published originally on 8/4/2009 The information contained within the article may or may not be up to date depending on when you are accessing the information.

Links to this material are strongly encouraged. This article may be republished without further permission if it is published as written and includes credit to the author, Integrated Crop Management News and Iowa State University Extension. Prior permission from the author is required if this article is republished in any other manner.